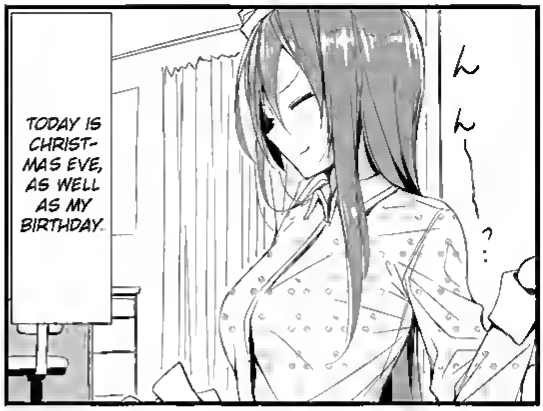
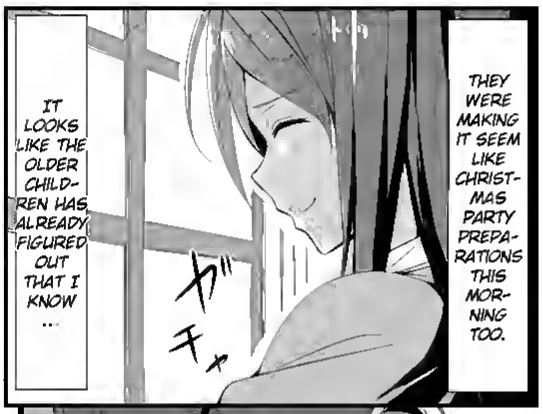
Vol.9 [December Aoi's Chapter]




IT LOOKS LIKE THE OLDER CHILDREN HAS ALREADY FIGURED OUT THAT I KNOW ...
THEY WERE MAKING IT SEEM LIKE CHRISTMAS PARTY PREPARATIONS THIS MORNING TOO.
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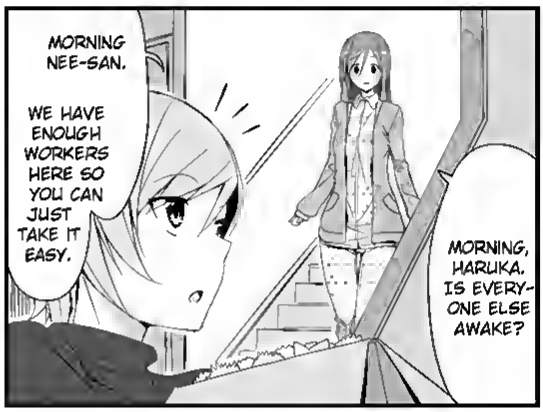

AS SUCH A FORTUNATE PERSON, IF THERE WERE ANY ONE THING I COULD ASK FOR FROM SANTA TONIGHT—
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Dad says he'll come home in the afternoon.
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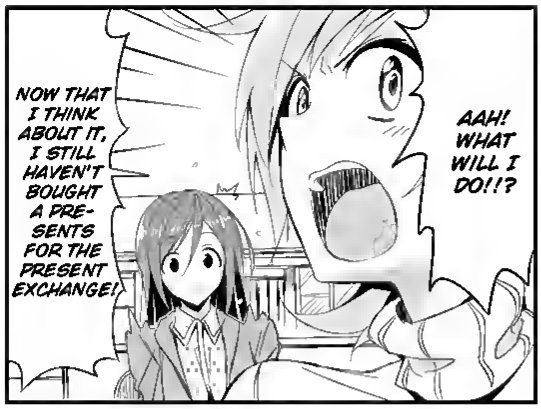
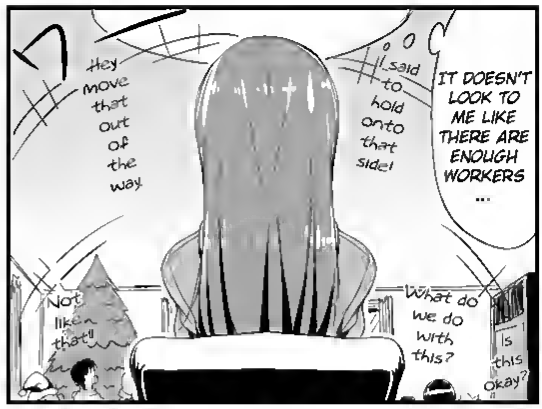
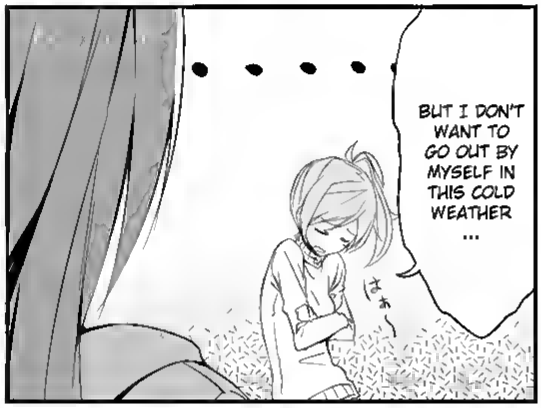

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I STILL HAVEN'T BOUGHT A PRESENTS FOR THE PRESENT EXCHANGE!
AAH! WHAT WILL I DO!!?


IT DOESN'T LOOK TO ME LIKE THERE ARE ENOUGH WORKERS ...
I said to hold onto that side!
Hey move that out of the way
What do we do with this?
Not like that!
Is this okay?


BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT BY MYSELF IN THIS COLD WEATHER ...

IT'S OKAY, WE CAN FINISH ON OUR OWN!
SHOULD I HELP?
Keep looking after Borsch!
Pet cat Borsch

WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?
SHE MUST WANT TO TAKE ME OUTSIDE UNTIL PREPARATIONS ARE READY.

LEAVE IT TO ME.
GROUP THAT THINKS THEY ARE FOOLING AOI.
And don't forget about Onee-chan's present either
GOT IT, MISAKI? KEEP AOI ONEE-CHAN BUSY AT LEAST UNTIL 4PM.

WHAT'S WITH THAT TERRIBLE ACTING!!!!
WILL YOU? THANK YOU, ONEE-CHAN!

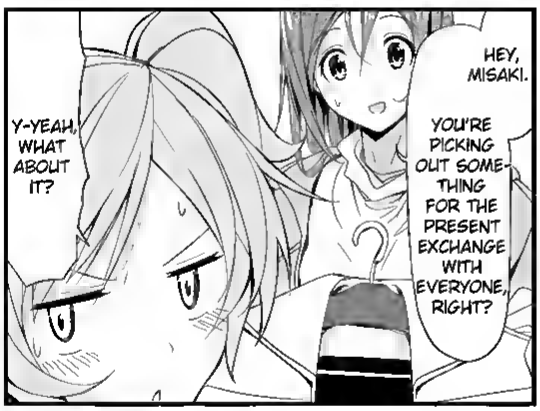
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WORKERS, HUH.
...ALSO, LEAVE LIKE 3 COPIES BEHIND ...

MI-MISAKI-SAMA, HOW ABOUT THIS ONE OVER HERE?
NO GOOD AT ALL.
ONEE-CHAN, STAND HERE FOR A BIT.

I SHOULD HAVE COME IN SOMETHING WARMER...
Sure is cold
BUS

HMM...
IT LOOKS A BIT PLAIN ON ONEE-CHAN...

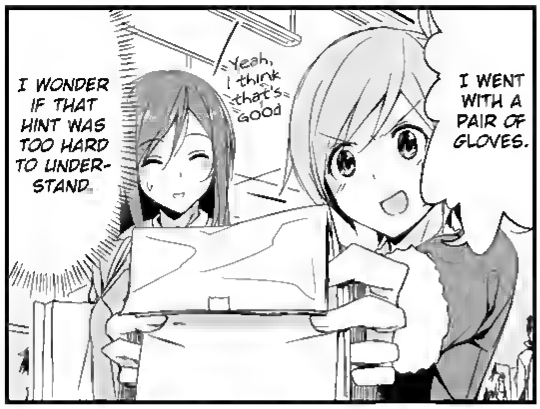
NO! ONEE-CHAN SHOULD BE COLD TOO!
WANT TO USE MY SCARF ...?

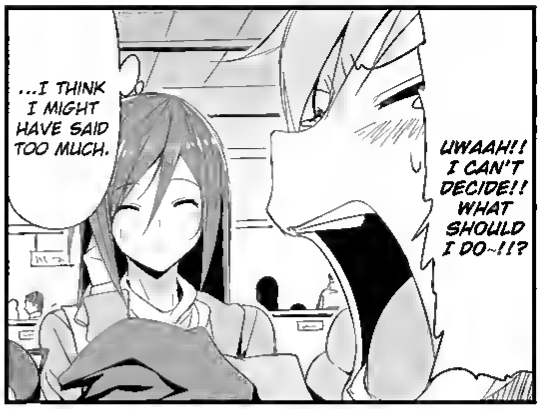

HEY, MISAKI.
YOU'RE PICKING OUT SOMETHING FOR THE PRESENT EXCHANGE WITH EVERYONE, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH, WHAT ABOUT IT?

MISAKI SURE GETS STUBBORN IN TIMES LIKE THIS...
THEN HOW ABOUT TAKING TURNS USING IT?

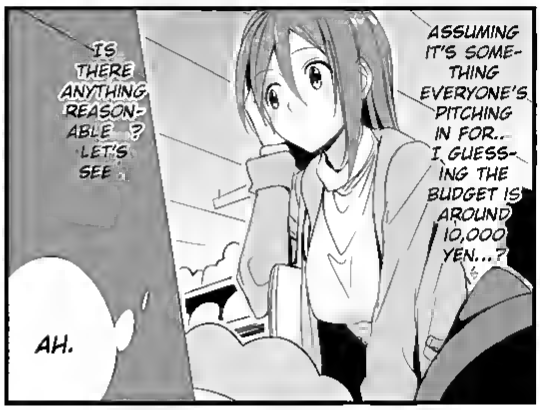
IF YOU GET SOMETHING LIKE THIS AND IT GETS DRAWN BY SHIORI OR SOMEONE ELSE...
AH... I SEE, I SEE!
SHE MUST BE TRYING TO BUY A PRESENT FOR ME ...

GEEZ!
I'M STILL YOUNG SO THIS MUCH IS NOTHING!!
OUR AGES AREN'T MUCH DIFFERENT.


I WONDER IF THAT HINT WAS TOO HARD TO UNDER-STAND.
Yeah, I think that's good
I WENT WITH A PAIR OF GLOVES.


...I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SAID TOO MUCH.
UWAAH!! I CAN'T DECIDE!! WHAT SHOULD I DO-!!?

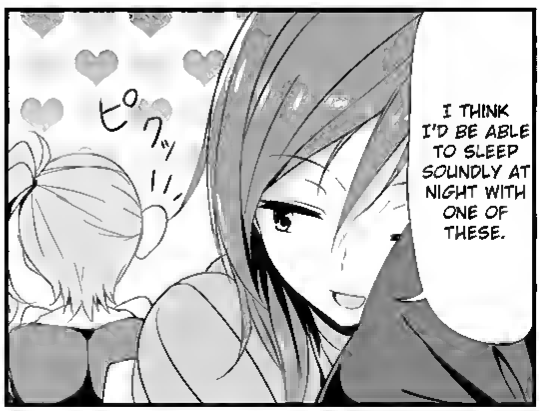
WELL, I'LL BE HAPPY IF IT'S SOME-THING MISAKI PICKED OUT.


IS THERE ANYTHING REASON-ABLE ? LET'S SEE .
ASSUMING IT'S SOME-THING EVERYONE'S PITCHING IN FOR.. I GUESS-ING THE BUDGET IS AROUND 10,000 YEN...?
AH.

AH, OH YEAH !!
SINCE WE'RE DONE HERE, SHALL WE HEAD HOME?

AH, THIS HUG PILLOW LOOKS LIKE BORSCHT, HOW CUTE.

OH NOOOO!! THERE'S SOMETHING I FORGOT TO BUY!!
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE'S AIMING FOR...
Misaki, try to be a bit more quiet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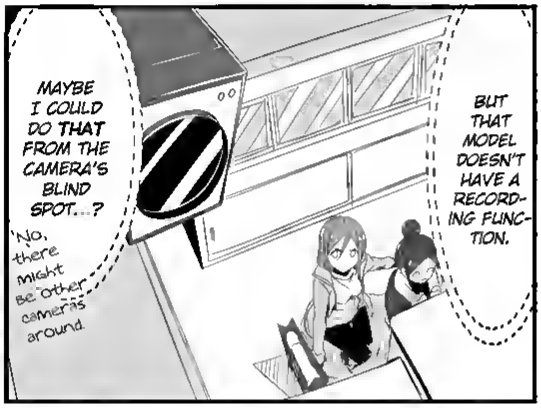
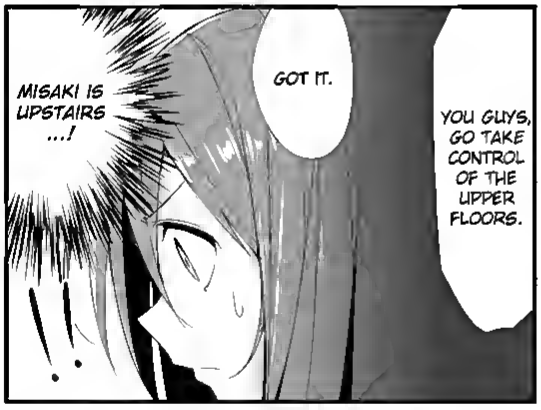
I THINK I'D BE ABLE TO SLEEP SOUNDLY AT NIGHT WITH ONE OF THESE.

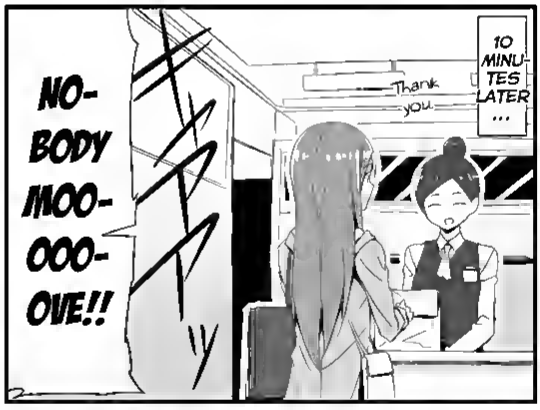
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO GET RECORDED AND HAVE IT BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION...
GEEZ... IT JUST HAD TO BE WHILE EVERYONE'S PREPARING TO CELEBRATE...

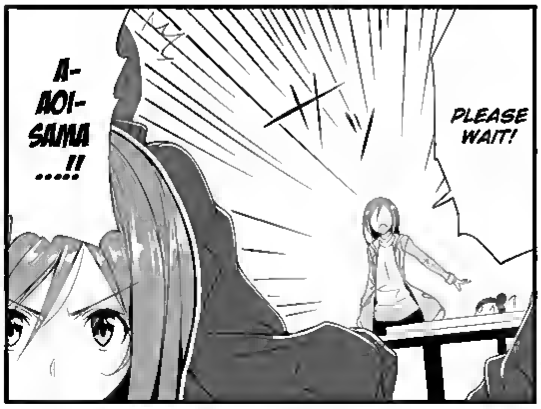
OKAY, GOT IT.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK SO YOU WAIT DOWNSTAIRS, ONEE-CHAN!


MAYBE I COULD DO THAT FROM THE CAMERA'S BLIND SPOT...?
No, there might be other cameras around.
BUT THAT MODEL DOESN'T HAVE A RECORDING FUNCTION.

OH YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT TO BUY SOMETHING TOO.


MISAKI IS UPSTAIRS ...!
GOT IT.
YOU GUYS, GO TAKE CONTROL OF THE UPPER FLOORS.

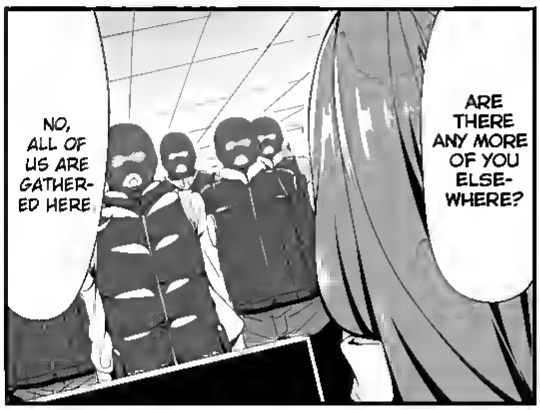

NOBODY MOOOOOOVE!!
10 MINUTES LATER...
Thank you.


A-AOI-SAMA ....!!
PLEASE WAIT!

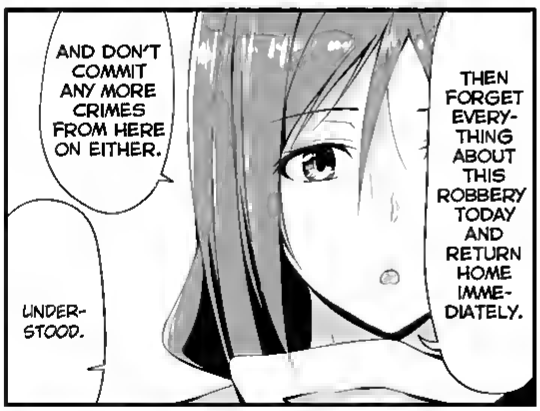
A ROBBERY ...!?
WE HAVE THE EXITS BLOCKED! DON'T DO ANYTHING FUNNY IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

YOU CALL THE POLICE.
Y-YES!

...SO YOU'RE ONE OF THE UNLUCKY ONES TOO TODAY... WE WON'T DO ANY HARM AS LONG AS YOU DON'T RESIST.
SO YOU JUST WAIT QUIETLY THERE FOR A WHILE.


ARE THERE ANY MORE OF YOU ELSE-WHERE?
NO, ALL OF US ARE GATHER-ED HERE.

WE'RE BEING SERIOUS HERE.
EVEN IF IT'S AOI-SAMA ...
COULD YOU SHUT UP FOR A BIT.


THEN FORGET EVERY-THING ABOUT THIS ROBBERY TODAY AND RETURN HOME IMME-DIATELY.
AND DON'T COMMIT ANY MORE CRIMES FROM HERE ON EITHER.
UNDER-STOOD.

ALL OF YOU, DROP YOUR WEAPONS.

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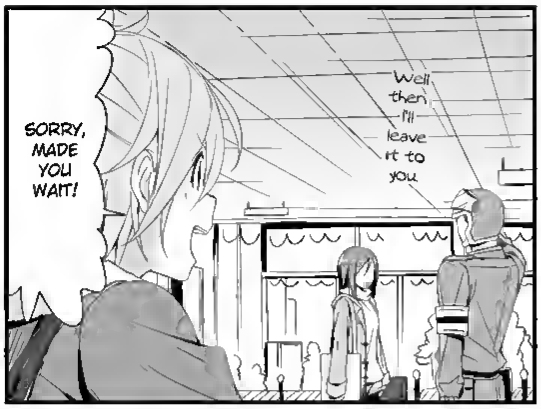
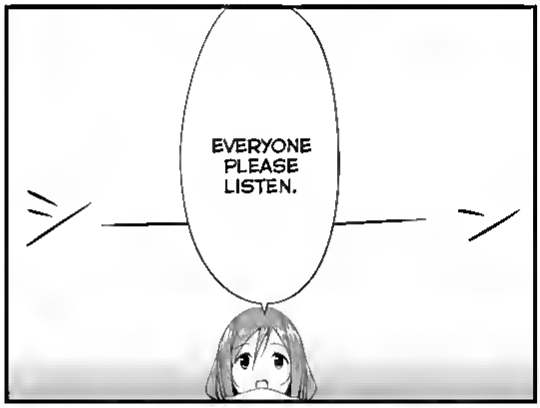
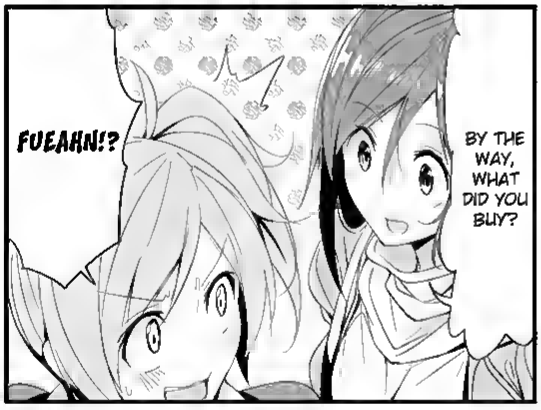

SORRY, MADE YOU WAIT!
Well, then I'll leave it to you

DID YOU REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE?
Y-YES! THEY SAID THEY'LL BE HERE SHORTLY!
Some sort of event?
What's going on? something happen?
UNDERSTOOD.

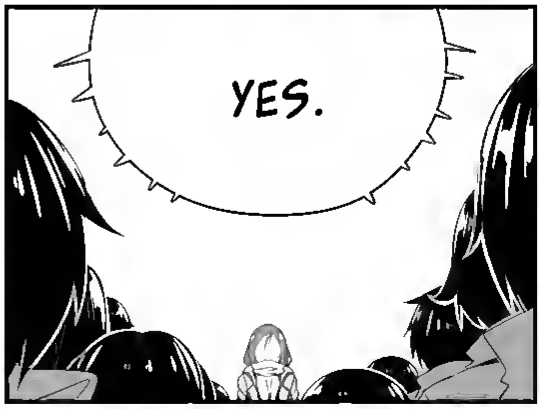
A CHRISTMAS EVENT APPARENTLY.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...?

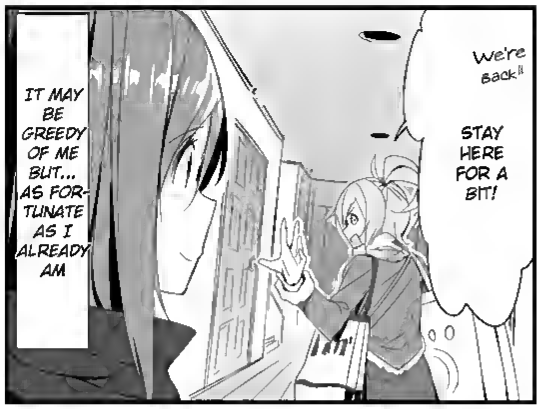

EVERYONE PLEASE LISTEN.


FUEAHN!?
BY THE WAY, WHAT DID YOU BUY?

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS OF ALL DAYS.
SO LET'S FORGET EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED JUST NOW AND ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SHOPPING.

AH.
OH YEAH!
YOU KNOW, IT'S THAT!
THERE WAS SOMETHING HARUKA ASKED ME TO GET!

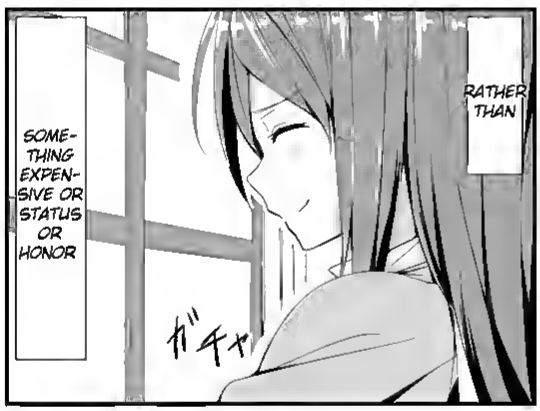

YES.


We're back!!
STAY HERE FOR A BIT!
IT MAY BE GREEDY OF ME BUT... AS FORTUNATE AS I ALREADY AM

OKAY.
AH, GIVE ME A MINUTE!
Thank you!

You can enter, onee-chan!
IF THERE WERE ANY ONE THING I'D ASK FOR...

"WE'LL BE HOME SOON..." AND SEND.


RATHER THAN
SOMETHING EXPENSIVE OR STATUS OR HONOR

EH, ONEE-CHAN, WHAT'S THIS...?
A SPECIAL PRESENT FROM ME JUST FOR MISAKI.

Happy birthday Aoi onee-chan~
I CAN'T HELP BUT WISH FOR THINGS TO FOREVER STAY THE WAY THEY ARE NOW

KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM THE OTHERS.